

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT  
19 December 1984

APO3|ENGINEER/|JENNINGS: Speaking of secrets, Thomas Cavanagh, the man |ESPIONAGE|accused of trying to sell secret information about the Stealth bomber, is being held today without bail in California. Cavanagh is the subject of the fifth major espionage case in the United States which has been announced this year. In California, here's ABC's Gary Shepard.

STAT.

SHEPARD: Thomas Cavanagh, apprehended for attempting to sell the Soviets billions of dollars worth of secrets about the Stealth radar avoidance system, which would enable American planes to penetrate enemy airspace without being detected. During his arraignment, the FBI filed a 10-page affidavit, which revealed some of the details about how the Northrop engineer was caught. He held three meetings with FBI undercover men who were posing as Soviet agents. The first, at this motel just outside Los Angeles nine days ago. Calling himself Peters, Cavanagh said he needed \$25,000 to pay off a series of debts and would be willing to sell Stealth technology in exchange for cash. HERB CLOUGH (former FBI counterintelligence): But the truth is, knowing the Soviet intelligence services and their little brothers, the satellite intelligence services, their appetite is voracious and they will take anything they can get.

SHEPARD: Two days later, another meeting at this motel. Here, Cavanagh produced blueprints, drawings and technical manuals marked, 'secret, special access required.' The FBI says it has tape recordings of Cavanagh saying this to the men he believed were Soviet agents. 'I feel like I can bring more documents out. I gotta have money, OK? And then I bring more documents out. I'm after big money. Twenty-five thousand dollars is a drop in the bucket,

believe me.' Then, yesterday, the final meeting at the Hyatt Hotel in Commerce, Calif., where Cavanagh delivered more Stealth documents, was paid \$25,000 in cash and then immediately arrested. The affidavit also reveals Cavanagh told the FBI he had already sent the Soviet consul in San Francisco a classified list of Defense subcontractors. He was intercepted before he made actual contact with Soviet intelligence agents. Sources say that was probably the result of FBI telephone wire taps on the Soviet consulate. In 1977, it was Christopher Boyce, arrested for selling American defense secrets to the Soviets. In 1981, William Bell was caught peddling high-tech technology to Polish intelligence. Now the case of Thomas Cavanagh, as the FBI steps up its effort to keep America's top-secret technology out of the hands of the Soviet bloc. Gary Shepard, ABC News, Los Angeles.